

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**

**10**

**OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA**

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following:

1 **SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ . NATIONAL DIRECTED ENERGY CENTER OF EX-**  
2 **CELLENCE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than January 1,  
4 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a National  
5 Directed Energy Center of Excellence.

6 (b) DUTIES.—The Center established under sub-  
7 section (a) shall—

8 (1) support strong university research programs  
9 in high-energy lasers, high-power microwaves, and  
10 related fields in atmospheric, targeting and track-  
11 ing, lethality science and technology, systems engi-  
12 neering, materials, and interaction science;

13 (2) align directed energy research programs  
14 with relevant programs in Armed Forces laboratories  
15 and the Service Academies, including the Naval Re-  
16 search Laboratory, the Army Research Laboratory,  
17 the Naval Surface Warfare Center, the Naval Infor-  
18 mation Warfare Center, the United States Military  
19 Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the Air

1 Force Institute of Technology, and the Naval Post-  
2 graduate School;

3 (3) construct a competitive program for di-  
4 rected energy research in United States universities  
5 based on topics originating from the directed energy  
6 community, including the Joint Directed Energy  
7 Transition Office, Technology and Alternatives  
8 Working Groups, laboratories of the Armed Forces,  
9 the Service Academies, and other organizations and  
10 elements of the Department of Defense;

11 (4) establish and administer a national work-  
12 force development program in directed energy that—

13 (A) provides hands-on training for relevant  
14 personnel at all levels;

15 (B) is based on advanced digital platforms;

16 (C) is inter-institutional; and

17 (D) incorporates directed energy courses  
18 promoted by the Directed Energy Professional  
19 Society and new courses developed by the Cen-  
20 ter to impart skills and expertise that are in de-  
21 mand in the directed energy industry, in labora-  
22 tories of the Armed Forces, and in academic in-  
23 stitutions; and

24 (5) support specific interactive research and de-  
25 velopment programs for small businesses, similar to

1 the Small Business Innovation Research and Small  
2 Business Technology Transfer programs of the De-  
3 partment of Defense, to encourage technology trans-  
4 fer between universities and industries in the field of  
5 directed energy.

